



Baseball ends season
on a sour note on
page 10.



Volleyball team looks
for rebirth on page 10.



Come meet the new
NECC Trainers on page
11.

NECC Observer

The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College • Haverhill and Lawrence, Mass.

www.observer.necc.mass.edu @theneccobserver

Fall 2017 • Volume 83 • Issue Number 1 • September 13, 2017

News Bytes

Join other NECC students, faculty, and staff along with President Lane Glenn, and "Run the Campus" this Fall!

In Haverhill: Each Monday from 12:00-1:00, meet in front of the Sport & Fitness Center. Beginners can join Coach Jeff Bickford in the "Couch to 5K" group (no previous running experience necessary), and other groups will form for intermediate and expert runners. We will usually run or walk 1-3 laps around the campus (about 1-3 miles). For those interested, the club will also have a 4.5 mile trail run around Lake Kenosha.

In Lawrence: Each Friday from 12:00-1:00, walkers and runners can meet Coach Sarah Courchesne outside of the Lawrence YMCA for laps around the Campagnone Common (1-3 miles).

Everyone who logs at least ten runs/walks will receive a special club tech shirt and free entry into the Pentucket Pride 5k Road Race on Sunday, November 26.

For additional information and/or to sign up to participate, contact: Maureen Saliba @ (978) 556 - 3718 or msaliba@necc.mass.edu, or meet at the Fitness Center Monday at noon.

Massachusetts Community College Night at Fenway!

Thursday, September 28, 2017 for the Boston Red Sox vs. Houston Astros game.

A limited number of tickets are still available for the second annual Community College Night at Fenway Park!

Tickets for the event cost \$32 each and can be purchased by filling for more information, please contact Lindsay Graham at lgraham@necc.mass.edu.

Renovated Spurk opens



Photo by Bailey Torrisi

One of the Spurk building's new entrances, complete with all new windows. To see more, about the renovation project, please visit pages 6 and 7.

Important dates:

Celebrate the new Spurk Renovations with President Glenn!

On behalf of President Glenn, the college invites you to join a celebration of the unveiling and ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly renovated Spurk Building.

September 19th from 11AM to Noon. NECC faculty and staff as well as members of the Board of Trustees, Foundation and Alumni Boards, area legislators, state and local officials and other college partners have been invited to join the celebration.

A brief speaking program will begin at 11:15AM in Lecture Hall A followed by a ribbon cutting at the front entrance (weather permitting) or in the main lobby.

Light refreshments will be served.

How to find security around each campus:

Haverhill Campus
100 Elliott St.,
room C-112(b)
978.556.3689

Lawrence Campus
45 Franklin St. main lobby
978.655.5939

Organizational shift in Athletics

New athletic director joins NECC staff

BY TRAVIS BARRETT
Sports Editor

NECC is experiencing a change in its athletic department.

Over the summer, Sue McAvoy, former athletic coordinator, declined to apply for the new position of athletic director and chose to retire.

The position is going from a union position to a non-union position. The new athletics director, Dan Blair, will report directly to Mike McCarthy, the Vice President of Administration and Finance. McCarthy has been overseeing the athletic department.

According to a NECC press release, the college recently restructured its athletics program with several goals in mind.

Those goals include "involving more students in athletics, expanding offerings in Lawrence, and attracting new resources to address facility needs," the press

release said.

McAvoy formally had the position for 20 years, bringing in a multitude of sports, from volleyball, track and field as well as cross country. She was in charge of one of the best community college athletics programs around.

This reporter tried reaching out to McAvoy but she refrained from any communication and remained silent on the matter. Many of the Athletics staff around wanted to remain quiet on the departure of McAvoy, saying no comment or that they didn't want to be named.

One staff member believes that McAvoy didn't want to retire and felt very uncomfortable with the whole situation. Others refrained from saying anything because they were already, "on their list."

This reporter questioned McCarthy as to why McAvoy would have to re-apply for the position she's excelled at for 20 years?

McCarthy replied, "Sometimes things are the same and sometimes they're not."

He followed up by adding that he isn't involved in that process.

Mary Murphy, the interim director for athletics said "the positions will be the exact same."

McCarthy added that he never got the chance to work with McAvoy and the two went separate paths after she declined to apply.

He added that he "believes she was offered to apply" and went in another direction.

The overall goal for athletics is to increase the athletes to increase the enrollment. So any new sports that are added in the coming years will be funded through either the enrollment fees or outside funding. The exposure of NECC is something the department is trying to increase as well.

They invited over the summer Central Catholic high school's baseball team to practice on our field, showcasing the campus for potential athletes.

Continued on page 11

Editorial

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I'm back (again)

Even though I thought this was the end, NECC I'm here

By BAILEY TORRISSI
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Hi everyone. Summer was busy for me, and I hope that everyone had a busy, but WORTH IT summer. As always, I sat there thinking about what to write for my editorial for a long time this last week. I tried to think about important and significant things I learned this summer to share with all of you, but I couldn't pin point one thing. Until a light bulb went off in my head.

Before the semester ended, and I wrote my editorials, I was in a point in my life where a few doors were closing, and new ones were

opening. I wrote about having to learn to love myself over again, and having to learn to be on my own. I am here to HAPPILY report, that this summer was all about self-discovery. So now, instead of just saying how important finding yourself is, I have proof to back myself up.

This summer, I did a lot of things I never would've done before. I traveled, I paddle boarded, I took salsa lessons, I called out of work (I know, that isn't a good thing. But I was living, and that's the most important part of this entire message), I tried new foods and I hung out by myself a lot. I was learning how to be alone again, and it might've been the best thing I have ever

done for myself. I wasn't looking for anyone, or anything to occupy my time, I was just living every day, and took my time doing so. I spent time with my memere, I took my sister shopping, I took my dad to dinner and I did so many things I was taking for granted before. I was really enjoying doing things for myself. All my life I did a million things for other people, and never took a second to just stop and do something for me. This summer, I sacrificed and took the time to do things for me.

I hope that everyone has a summer like I did. For the first time ever, I didn't depend on someone else for my happiness. I created my own. I continue to create



Photo by Bailey Torrisi
Bailey Torrisi, Editor-in-Chief, paddleboarding off the coast of Key Largo in August.

my own now. I have learned that as cliché as it is, everything does indeed happen for a reason.

I needed to find myself, and soul searching was ex-

actly what was on my agenda for the summer. 100% necessary as well. I highly recommend to anyone to take the time to do so.

NECC Observer

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The NECC Observer reserves the right to edit, condense and refuse all submissions.

Fall 2015 Observer Staff

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : Travis Barrett
COPY EDITOR : Now Hiring
OPINION EDITOR : Bailey Torrisi
NEWS EDITOR : Now Hiring
FEATURES EDITOR : Emily Zinsmeister
A&E EDITOR : Sarah Desiderio
SPORTS EDITOR : Travis Barrett
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR : Now Hiring
WEB EDITOR : Now Hiring
STAFF WRITER : Now Hiring
CIRCULATION : Observer Staff
FACULTY ADVISER : Mary Jo Shafer

Have you taken Journalism I? Are you taking it now?
Would you like to be on the Observer staff? Then submit your resume to observer@necc.mass.edu.

Publication Schedule

Issue	Publication Date	Ad/Copy Deadline
#1	Sept. 13	N/A
#2	Oct. 4	Sept. 27
#3	Oct. 18	Oct. 11
#4	Nov. 1	Oct. 25
#5	Nov. 15	Nov. 8
#6	Dec. 6	Nov. 29

We welcome letters and articles from our readers. You can submit via email, and must include your name and phone number for verification. Write "Letter" or "Article to Editor" in the subject line so we notice it right away.

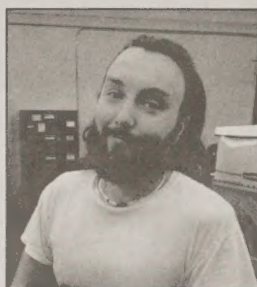
Send your letters to observer@necc.mass.edu

We try to publish all letters we receive, but we reserve the right to edit or reject those we receive.

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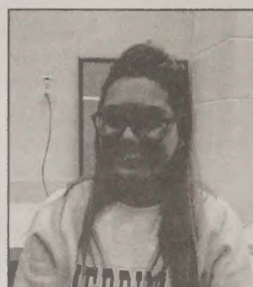
Roaming Reporter

Observer Staff: What's your goal for the semester?



To increase the newspaper staff.

TRAVIS BARRETT
JOURNALISM



To have good time management and still have time for myself.

BAILEY TORRISSI
ELEMENTARY ED



To follow my plan to graduate in May.

EMILY ZINSMEISTER
LIBERAL ARTS: WRITING

We have returned to Spurk!

The Observer staff editors and writers are happy to report that we have moved into our new office in the renovated Spurk building. You can find us in Room C318, Spurk building, on the Haverhill campus.

We want to hear from you! Email comments and letters to the editor to:

observer@necc.mass.edu. We also still have staff openings for a News Editor, Opinion Editor, Campus Life Editor, Web Editor and Staff Writers.

Editor's Note: Due to budget challenges, we will now print 12 issues a year; six a semester, instead of 16. Our revised publication schedule and advertising deadlines can be found in the chart to the left.

Opinion

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Is high school ruining adolescents?

Students are suffering at the hands of their highschool years, what are we doing wrong?

By BAILEY TORRISSI

OPINION EDITOR

Over the summer I did a lot of relaxing, but with pursuing a career in education I did a lot of research and reading as well. I have to say, a lot of the research I looked into has me convinced that our school system, routine, etc. is putting a huge toll on our adolescents. I couldn't agree more. I completely agree that there is a correlation between the rising anxiety levels in adolescents, and their plate loads.

With the system that we have into place now, kids wake up around 5 or 6 for school. Get to school around 7, start around 7:15, sit through classes until 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Most kids do sports afterschool, until about 4:30. Most kids also have jobs, and on average work until around 9/10. That follows by around 3 hours ON AVERAGE of homework, give or take.

How do we teach students in

health class that it's necessary to maintain healthy sleep habits (8 hours of sleep), when we average them 5 or 6 hours a night?

We teach them it's necessary to give themselves time to do everything, and to not stress themselves out when we give them an unmanageable schedule? We also expect them to be normal teenagers, but don't even give them the chance to have a maintainable social life. We expect kids to have FULL attention in school, dedicate time to sports / jobs, complete all of their homework, and get a proper night sleep while expecting them to also maintain a social life. Do we not see that we are completely destroying adolescents?

Now, I completely agree that the number one priority of adolescents should be academics. Their brains are in the perfect time for learning. They should be studying, earning a degree in what they want, and then pursuing the rest of their lives. But

"I think we, as educators and future educators, have a lot of compromising to do with our students."

- Bailey TorriSSI

I also believe that we expect far too much from students as well. I think we should be able to learn to compromise with our students, seeing that they have so much on their plates.

Do I agree with giving students an hours' worth of homework after they've spent 7 hours at school? No, I absolutely don't. I think that if we're giving our students an hour of homework per class, and they work on a block schedule that is 4 hours of homework a day. That's 11 hours of school every day, just about half of our 24 hour day. Then we want them to have 8 full

hours of sleep. That's 19 hours of the day dedicated to school, and sleep. Not to mention that would mean every kid had to go to sleep on average, at 9/10 P.M. I don't know any teenager that goes to bed at that time.

We are then giving our students 5 hours to do sports, work, eat, shower, and have a social life. 5 HOURS A DAY to do everything else they're supposed to do except for school work and sleep, do we not see how crazy that is?

Not only that, but do we not see how busy schedules is ruining our family culture in America. How often does your family sit

down for dinner together? I know my family has one night a week everyone is home, and that's Fridays. We are taking so much time out of our teenagers days, that they barely have any time to see their own families. We talk in school about how important family time is, for mental, emotional, physical health. You learn in Psychology how important family time is for a growing brain, and if our growing families are barely spending time together, it's taking a direct toll on our growing minds.

I think we, as educators, and future educators, have a lot of compromising to do with our students. I think a lot of educators also owe our students a huge pat on the back. The times have changed, and kids these days have a lot on their backs, while still balancing school, jobs, sports, family life and so many more things. Kids these days are amazing, and I give them ALL the props in the world.

Vaccinations are essential for public safety

Over time, doctors have concluded the risks of not getting necessary shots

By EMILY ZINSMEISTER

Features Editor

Remember when you were five and had to endure that painful shot at the doctor's office? You might recall holding breath, clenching your mother's hand so hard your knuckles turned white. Then, almost as soon as it started, it was over.

While you knew this doctor's visit was necessary, you probably did not understand what that tiny moment of pain really meant. Your parents, however, knew the high importance of these immunization shots, and had you vaccinated to protect you.

Despite being credited with saving countless lives since they came on the scene in the early 1900's, vaccinations have become quite the heated topic of debate in recent years. Some parents attribute vaccinations as the cause of certain chronic diseases and learning disabilities. They are fighting the government for the choice to vaccinate. Their intentions are good but they fail to see the great risk they would be taking if they did not immunize their kids.

Vaccinations should be mandatory because they have the potential to significantly diminish as well as completely eradicate certain diseases. They have proved to be insurmountably successful and safe. To not vaccinate would not only put your child at risk,

but the general public as well.

Mandatory vaccinations have already worked to our benefit in terms of many diseases that used to wreak havoc upon our society. Most notably, small pox has been completely eliminated from the world, the last naturally occurring case having been in 1949.

Other childhood diseases that used to cause parents to fear for their children's lives like the measles, diphtheria, and whooping cough have a substantially lower prevalence in today's society. Also, polio has been eradicated from the Western Hemisphere.

According to Benjamin Schwartz, director of epidemiology and surveillance for the CDC's National Immunization Program, "Vaccines have prevented thousands of deaths."

Given such a strong evidence as the complete eradication of disease, one would think the question of mandatory immunizations would be a non-issue for the most if not all members of our society.

Unfortunately, this question cannot be answered with a compromise. For vaccines to be effective, it must be all or nothing.

Immunization must be universal to work, which is one reason why the government stepped in and made this happen whether and individual agreed or not. The results display irrefutable success.

Bill A. Brunell, former chair-

man of the AAP Committee on Infectious Disease said, "Everyone knows that when immunization levels drop, it is just a matter of time before you get an epidemic."

In the late 1980's and early 1990's, vaccination rates fell, causing a ripple effect that led to a measles outbreak during which 132 people died. Although we pride ourselves on being a nation that values and perpetuates civil liberties, this is one liberty that is not worth the public risk.

The history of vaccinations has a cyclical pattern: success is achieved and the risk of disease is extremely low. This causes the politicians to reduce funding, which in turn causes vaccination rates to decrease, which then causes new outbreaks of disease, and ends with a demand for more immunization funding.

A lot of parents worry about a connection between vaccinations and an increase in chronic diseases and learning disabilities like autism. This risk is understandably, quite frightening for parents, as it is their job to protect their children from harm.

However, there is no evidence or research to suggest that there is in fact a causal link between vaccinations and disabilities like autism. Scientists from the CDC and other reputable institutions cite the timing of the onset of such diseases and disorders to be about the same as when children are immunized. Therefore, such a theory is only derived from a temporal association with no real scientific corroboration.

The British government reviewed the allegation that vaccines caused autism after much public outcry in 1998 when a surgeon reported that 12 cases of autism were due to the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine. Their conclusions stated that "there is no new evidence to suggest a causal link between MMR vaccination and autism."

These parents who advocate for optional vaccinations are failing to see the bigger picture. It is difficult because the nature of this debate is based on the fact that parents want to and will do whatever it takes to ensure their children's wellbeing. Yet, this is accompanied with high emotions that can lead to misguided opinions that endanger the lives of everyone around them.

Perhaps the best argument for mandatory vaccinations lies in our country's history. A hundred years ago childhood disease was highly prevalent and illnesses like the chicken pox were potentially fatal, unlike today where the most you will deal with is discomfort and some days out of school.

The success and effectiveness of vaccinations is so much greater than any cases of adverse reactions, that it is almost incomprehensible why a parent would vote against it. "Vaccines are among the safest pharmacological interventions for disease prevention available," according to epidemiologist Roger Bernier, the associate director for science at the CDC's National Immunization Program.

According to Paul Offit, chief of infectious diseases and Children's Hospital in Philadelphia boiled the situation down to this: "The real question is, do the benefits of vaccines definitively outweigh the risks? For all children's vaccines, that is clearly the case."

With any kind of medication or medical treatment, there will be side effects and risks, and so one must question whether they are making an objective and rational decision about using a certain medicine. When one considers the broader implications of not vaccinating, how can they choose to follow such a path?

When you sat on that doctor's table when you were five you probably didn't realize the impact of that fleeting moment of pain. You had no idea that you, as an individual, was part of a bigger movement in that moment, a movement that protects the health of not only yourself but everyone around you.

Vaccinations should be like jury duty, your civic obligation. The risks of not doing so are far too great. No one wants a child to suffer because of something that the government made them do to their child, yet since we do not live in a perfect world, a bad reaction here and there is bound to happen. But this is an acceptable risk given what the outcome would be if an epidemic broke out. It is the responsibility of the individual to do their part and contribute to protecting and maintaining the health of our society.

News

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Letter to the Editor: Nuclear war poses a threat to human survival

To the Editor,
Non-stop TV coverage of Hurricane Irma, and Hurricane Harvey before that, reminds us that climate change is an urgent problem. As Prof. Noam Chomsky has pointed out, however, it is one of two major threats to human survival. The other is nuclear war. Despite President Trump's alarming rhetoric toward North Korea ("fire and fury"), this issue doesn't seem to resonate with NECC students and faculty. As someone who uses Elaine Scarry's book *Thermonuclear Monarchy* in my American government classes, I'm curious as to why this is so. I wel-

come feedback from the NECC community as to how this issue might be framed so as to give it the life-and-death status it deserves.

The day after writing this letter, I found a cartoon in the Eagle-Tribune of September 11 in which one character says, "Global warming could make Earth uninhabitable," to which the other character responds, "If we don't blow it up first." This suggests that people are beginning to make the connection.

Stephen E. Slaner
Professor of Political Science
NECC

Free science presentations

Northern Essex professors to give free presentations at the Nevins Library

BY NECC NEWSROOM
Correspondent

This fall, Northern Essex Community College and Nevins Memorial Library in Methuen are partnering on a speaker series exploring science related topics, including the Science of Sunshine, The Science of Happiness, and Radioactivity in Your Life.

The presentations are on Monday evenings from 7 to 8 pm and are free and open to the public. They will be held in the Garden Room, Nevins Memorial Library, 305 Broadway, Methuen, MA.

Northern Essex Chemistry Professor Mike Cross (pictured) will kick off the series on Monday, September 18 with his presentation on "The Science of Sunshine". Over exposure to sun can be concerning but the sun can be good for your health, according to Cross. Learn about healthy doses of sun and the benefits of more sun exposure, from Cross, who has a PhD in organic

chemistry from the University of Utah and is known on campus for incorporating games and magic tricks into his teaching.

On Monday, October 23, Lizzie Casanave (pictured), professor of philosophy at Northern Essex, will speak on "The Science of Happiness and How to Be Happier". As Casanave explains, many people think they will feel happier as a result of something, such as finding a new job, finishing a project, or losing 10 pounds.

She says that psychologists and neurologists are now realizing that happiness can be more readily achieved through changing the way we think. During her presentation, she will explain this concept and provide practical tools for achieving a new happier mindset. Casanave has a bachelor's in philosophy/religion and world perspectives and a master's in critical and creative thinking, and she has been teaching philosophy for more than ten years.

NECC Professor Lizzie Casanave will present on the Science of Happiness at Nevins Library in Methuen on Oct. 23.

Professor Cross will return again on November 13 for a talk on "Radioactivity in Your Life." Each of us faces radioactivity in our lives from common things such as smoke detectors, cigarettes, and even table salt. Cross will discuss the many ways we encounter radiation and share what should be of concern.

This series is funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services designed to promote public libraries as a science resource center, and supported by the Northern Essex Community College Speakers Bureau.

For more information, contact Sarah Sullivan, head of reader services, Nevins Memorial Library, ssullivan@nevinslibrary.org or 978 686-4080, ext. 20.

For more information on the speakers' bureau, visit the speakers' bureau page on the college's website or contact Ernie Greenslade, director of public relations, at 978-556-3862 or egreenslade@necc.mass.edu

TRANSFER DAY IS COMING!!

HAVERHILL

Tuesday, October 10th
TC103A
11am -1pm

LAWRENCE

Wednesday, October 18th
El-Hefni
11am-1pm

Bring your NECC transcript!



**Sunday, Oct. 1 or
Sunday, Oct. 29, 2017**
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell

Open House is a great way to meet students, faculty and staff from every program. Members of campus clubs and organizations are on hand to share what it's like to be a student here. Campus tours run continuously, and a flexible schedule allows you to focus on what interests you most.

OPEN HOUSE

Register ONLINE AT uml.edu/falloh


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News

NECC creates space for BA degrees

Collaborative programs allow students to get BA on Lawrence campus

By ERNIE GREENSLADE
NECC Newsroom

On Thursday, September 7, Northern Essex Community College unveiled newly renovated space on the 2nd floor of 420 Common St, which will be used for bachelor's degrees offered on the college's Lawrence Campus.

Lyndon State College (Vermont) and Regis North (Weston, MA) students will learn in the bright space which features four classrooms, most with stunning views of the city; PC and Mac labs; and faculty and staff offices. Faculty from the four-year colleges will travel to Northern Essex to teach the students, most of whom graduated with associate degrees from Northern Essex.

"A college education is almost a requirement for a ticket to the middle class," said NECC President Lane Glenn. "We are proud and happy to partner with visionary colleges that recognize how access to higher education can elevate a community, preparing local residents for high-demand careers."

Regis began offering bachelor's degrees at NECC in 2013

and Lyndon State College began their programs in 2016, and now there's centralized, dedicated space for the programs, according to Noemi Custodia Lora, vice president of NECC's Lawrence campus and community relations, who also spoke at the event.

"Our students work and have family commitments and many don't have transportation," she said. "Having this partnership means educational equality. We're expanding what the community college offers, reaching students who are underserved in higher education."

Regis President Antoinette Hays announced that Regis will expand its program offerings, which currently include bachelor's degrees in nursing and public health, to include sports management and health sciences.

Nolan Atkins, provost, Lyndon State College; Antoinette Hays, president, Regis, Lane Glenn, president, NECC

"Regis is dedicated to making accessible a high-quality, affordable education to the residents of Lawrence and the entire Merrimack Valley. We found the per-

"Having this partnership means educational equality. We're expanding what the community college offers..."

- Noemi Custodia Lora

fect partner to achieve this mission in NECC and we're proud to offer additional programming as a sign of our commitment."

Lyndon State is also an "access institution," said Nolan Atkins, provost of the college. "If you look at our respective mission statements, we're very similar with Northern Essex in many ways. We share common core values."

Lyndon State offers bachelor's degree completion programs in computer information systems and graphic design.

The bachelor's degrees offered at Northern Essex are designed to be affordable. Lyndon State College offers in-state Vermont tuition rates and Regis North students pay a continuing education rate, which is more affordable.

Calling Lawrence "a college town", Mayor Dan Rivera said he's "thankful a kid from Lawrence can get an associate degree and then a bachelor's right in

Lawrence."

Three students spoke compellingly about the opportunities they've received as a result of these partnerships.

Yanina Vasquez Riley of Lowell, who earned an Associate Degree in General Studies: Health Specialization from Northern Essex in 2015 and a bachelor's in public health from Regis in 2017 is currently enrolled in a master's in health administration at Regis while working as an interpreter at Lowell General Hospital.

"There are many other Yaninas in Greater Lowell and Greater Lawrence, single parents, working full-time, thinking they can't afford education. I'm here to tell you, you can do it. I will be forever grateful for the opportunities I have been given through Northern Essex and Regis."

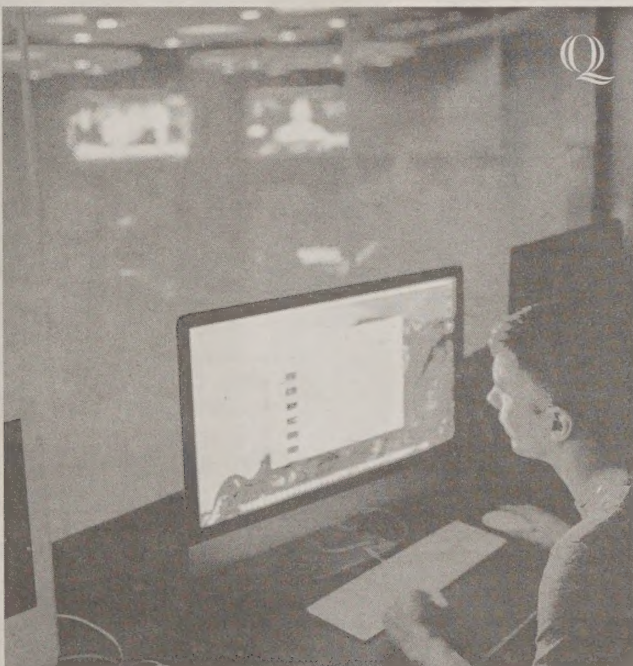
Two students in Lyndon State College's Computer Information Systems bachelor degree—Jean Carlos Diaz of Lawrence and Da-

vid Arivella of Haverhill—also shared their stories.

Diaz, who received an associate degree in computer science from Northern Essex in 2015, is the first in his family to attend college. "I don't have the words to describe how excited I am about college. It makes me very strong and hopeful for the future."

To learn more about bachelor's degrees at NECC, visit www.necc.mass.edu/bachelor-degrees.

With campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence, Northern Essex Community College offers over 60 associate degree and certificate programs as well as hundreds of noncredit courses designed for personal enrichment and career growth. Nearly 6,000 students are enrolled in credit associate degree and certificate programs on the Haverhill and Lawrence campuses; and another 3,000 take noncredit workforce development and community education classes on campus and at the Opportunity Works building at 671 Kenoza St., located next to the Haverhill campus, and at businesses and community sites across the Merrimack Valley. For more information, visit the website at www.necc.mass.edu.



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Photo Courtesy NECC Newsroom

Nolan Atkins, provost, Lyndon State College; Antoinette Hays, president, Regis, Lane Glenn, president, NECC.



Photo Courtesy NECC Newsroom

Bachelor's Degrees at NECC partnership leaders cutting the banner.

Campus Life

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Spurk renovation photos



Photo by Bailey Torrissi

Many students and staff had their first glimpse of the renovated Spurk building this week, as staff members were also kept busy with moving the re-located classrooms and offices back to the C building. The renovation, which was anticipated to cost \$15.2 million and was funded by a 2008 capital bond, included air quality improvements, bathroom renovations, accessibility changes to bring the building into ADA compliance and safety advances, including additional fire protection.

Left, the view outside Spurk looking towards the baseball field from the second floor window



Photo by Bailey Torrissi

Above, outside the new side entrance of Spurk.



Photo by Bailey Torrissi

Above, the updated staircase of Spurk.



Photo by Bailey Torrissi

The new and updated entrance to the staircase in Spurk.



Photo by Bailey Torrissi

On right, the view from outside the second floor window of Spurk looking towards the Sport and Fitness Center

Campus Life



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Photo by Bailey Torrissi

On left, the view from outside a Spurk classroom looking out at the Tech Center.

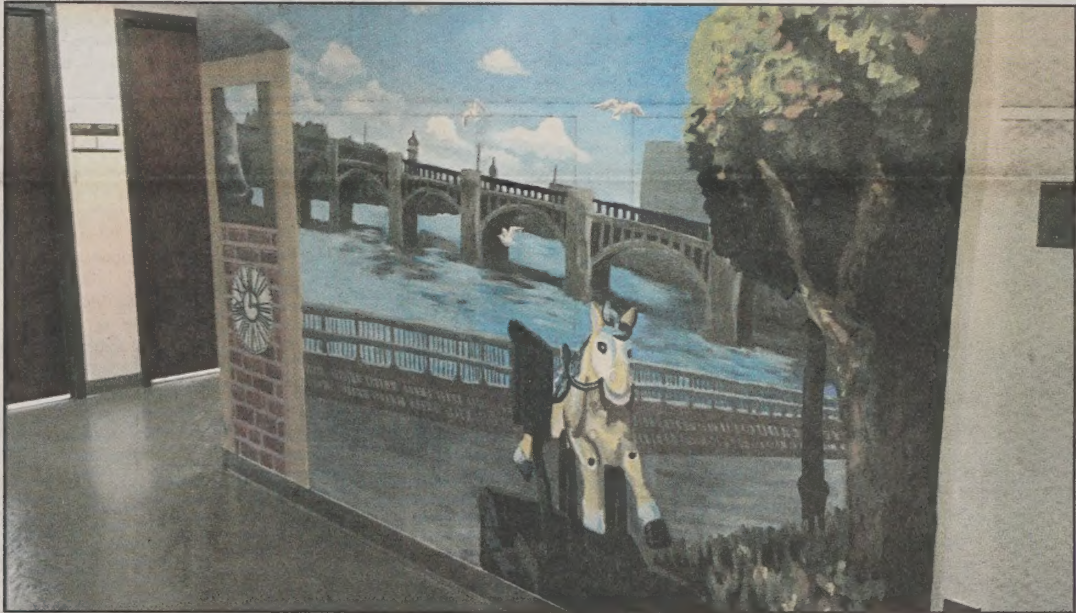


Photo by Bailey Torrissi

Although not new, this mural is up on Spurk's second floor. Made in 2012 by a student.



Photo by Bailey Torrissi

Looking out of a Spurk classroom window onto the B-building and the Quad.

Features

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Once upon a time, in a land called America.... The Observer's new Features editor shares her research on fairy tales

By EMILY ZINSMEISTER
Features Editor

Did you ever wish upon a star as a child, truly believing that it could come true? Have you ever thought, "I wish I had a magic wand that I could use to just wave away this mess"?

Maybe you heard someone say, "I better head home before I turn into a pumpkin." These actions and statements are inherently recognized by most people. Can you think of one person who does not know the story of Cinderella? A fairy tale, according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, is defined as "a story (as for children) involving fantastic forces and beings (as fairies, wizards, and goblins); a story in which improbable events lead to a happy ending".

These stories date back centuries and have a unique malleability that allows us, as a society, to continuously re-cycle the same stories in new ways. They are neatly centered in the fantasy genre. Our society has a tendency to have some sort of singular fantastical obsession which evolves every few years into another one. Disney, of course, is most notable for the animated fairy tale movies of our childhood. I grew up with the classics like Cinderella, Snow White, and Ariel. Later on, in the late nineties, Harry Potter came onto the scene and captured the hearts and imaginations of people worldwide. Then, as all good things must come to an end, America looked toward her next fantasy fixation. Enter Twilight. A vampire tidal wave promptly ensued in popular culture. After that it was zombies and stories of dystopian realities, like The Hunger Games. Now, a current trend taking place in American popular culture is the re-emergence of fairy tales. Within the past five years, these stories have surged in popularity, taking over the fantasy genre in the movies and on television. So what has caused us to once again fall under the spell of the fairy tale genre? This newfound phenomenon is driven by qualities of the human condition that enable us to dream and be curious, causing us to question the state of society and inspiring a voracious appetite for learning the unknown. Despite all the benefits that come with societal advancements, we, as all living creatures, feel most secure with the familiar, and so we require a coping mechanism, mainly our imagination, with which to deal with the changes in our culture, which then manifests itself in the various mediums of popular culture. America is at a point in time where the millennial generation is transitioning into adulthood, and, given the state of

the economy, it is not surprising that it has been a somewhat fast (thanks to technology) and challenging advancement (college costs are at an all time high and a degree no longer guarantees a job). This uncertainty about the future, coupled with speed of technological advancement causes many young adults to longingly remember the simple times of childhood, which leads to a need to express such feelings creatively and imaginatively. As always, the older generations of a society share with the younger ones, and given the present incumbency of a new generation, it is now time the perfect moment in time to introduce these youngsters to world of magic and enchantment that used to bring us such joy.

Fairy tales draw directly on our imagination, our dreams, our fears, our hopes, and our inner desires. Imagination encompasses the more subjective causes of the fairy tale return. With this, we create stories and messages reflecting the mood and feelings of the greater population and communicate them through popular culture. When someone reads a fairy tale or watches a movie, they are experiencing a dream state in which their imagination is sparked by messages and stimuli it is absorbing in a cognitively pleasing and entertaining way. At times, everyone gets bored or overwhelmed with the stress of everyday life. According to Graeme Macmillan in his article, "Another Bite of the Poisoned Apple: Why does Pop Culture Love Fairy Tales Again?" the movies and the fantasy genre in particular, represent a highly sought after source for escapism when the need to 'unplug' seems to be getting stronger and stronger. Yet, we still find solace through the technology of a motion picture. Why do films affect us so? In his book, *The Cinema or the Imaginary Man*, Edgar Morin delves into the complexities of the cinematic experience and the fundamental truths it reveals about human nature, reality, illusion, and imagination. He says, "Fantasy rationalizes and objectifies magic, but it keeps its subjective nucleus... Its distinctive characteristic is to create a magical climate within a framework of rational (realist) explanations." In other words, the fantasy genre is so appealing because it displays an enchanted

Fairy tales are not just stories passed along from generation to generation. In fact, they are much more than that.

and magical world that is drawn from the real world we live in, such that it becomes the perfect balance of real and imaginary, a "sort of protein of soul."

Nostalgic appeal is a leading cause of the return of fairy tales. Fairy tales are used to teach children good morals and various lessons about living a virtuous life. Children are fortunate to possess a level of innocence so pure, that they are able to easily accept magic into their imagination. Young adults who are just learning the ropes of reality and responsibility (currently, me and my fellow millennials) can easily feel bombarded by obstacles as they attempt to navigate the road to self-sufficiency. In order to deal with the fears and anxiety about the future, it is natural to find solace in withdrawing from the present and opening up your psyche to the memories of being a child, thus, recalling that lens of wonderment through which you viewed the world before you became plagued with enough logic to learn it was actually scary. Morin also touches on the progression of children's preference in genre as they mature. He makes an interesting observation about the point at which children become skeptical. At around ten or twelve years old, kids begin see themselves as too old for fantasy and magic. They stop believing in the magic just in time for the cynicism of adolescence. According to Morin, "It is too childish," say these innocents, who do not know and perhaps will never know that realism hides adult childishness. We all still have that fascination with magic within us, within the shadow of our inner child. As preteens, we are anxious to shed the inner child and have the freedoms of adulthood. Then later we think, what was the big rush? Technology and modernity have brought about a new level of complexity to our society.

We have fully moved on from a manufacturing society to technological, information-based society. We are constantly looking to update, improve, and adapt old methods and products in order to give them a more effective purpose in our everyday lives. The American culture is quickly, yet almost subliminally changing faster than ever. As the economy evolves, so does the demographic of our population and the

viewpoints of those who live and participate in maintaining the norms established in our society. Since the birth of the internet, we have been able to gather knowledge and information on any subject with just a few keystrokes. With so much knowledge at the tips of our fingers, we might as well have a magic wand. The benefit to such societal changes is that our minds are now able to see different perspectives, which can give us insight into certain flaws in our more traditional way of thinking. We are then able to apply this new level of understanding to the old stories of our childhood. For example, the most recent fairy tale movies have depicted females as the protagonist as well the villain, an observation made by Graeme Macmillan in his aforementioned article. More and more, society is shrinking away from the previous super hero fad which was dominated by male lead characters. The feminist movement and has clearly influenced this new twist to the tales, which makes the movies or shows more appealing to a female audience.

Stories of our childhood, fairy tales, are fragmented just enough such that their main elements can be manipulated and adapted to more contemporary perspectives. Jeana Jorgensen analyzes how American media uses fairy tales and their central characters to create multiple stories that bear little to no resemblance to one another in her article "A Wave of the Magic Wand: Fairy Godmothers in Contemporary American Media". She references an article by Cathy Lynn Preston called "Disrupting the Boundaries of Genre and Gender: Postmodernism and the Fairy Tale", in which Preston claims, "In postmodernity the 'stuff' of fairy tales exists as fragments (princess, frog, slipper, commodity relations in marriage market) in the nebulous realm that we might most simply identify as cultural knowledge". Fairy tales provide the perfect template with which to use to purport any kind of message to the public, and guarantee that such message will be received given the familiar and magically fantastical way it is expressed.

According to Jorgensen's article, the elements that make up a fairy tale are somewhat like the letter squares for a scrabble

game. We know all the letters of the alphabet like the back of our hand but still there is always a different combination or better layout on the board, maybe not even better, but different way to build a word using the same letters but spelling a completely new word. The same concept can be applied to the characters, themes, motifs, and plots in fairy tales. It is easy to overlook the marketing world when it comes to fairy tales. Yet, as Jorgensen says, the "magical worldview" is alive and well in the art of advertising. Ever heard the voice-over in a commercial say "Works like magic!"? Television and radio ads are constantly pushing new unbelievable, instantaneous solutions and products that are peppered with guaranteed effectiveness and promise to make life a whole lot better. Jorgensen attributes our tendency to fall for such "amazing deals" to the "contemporary American affinity toward supernatural improvements". The fairy tales of our childhood instills a need to always hold out hope that some things might actually be 'just like magic'. This, coupled with our consumerist attitude that personal happiness can be attained by buying things, establishes a connection between the

American fascination with magic, which came about through fairy tales, and how it plays a role in perpetuating our economy.

Fairy tales are not just stories past along from generation to generation. In fact they are much more than that. The present occurrence of mass adaptations of these familiar stories in movies and on television is due an almost formulaic composition of factors that have to do with both the human psyche and societal changes. If the causes were transformed into a recipe it might read: two cups imagination, one cup of escapism, a tablespoon of nostalgia, mix together with two cups of technology, half a cup of feminism, and a dash of advertising, bake until your twenties, and frost with a new generation of children and you got yourself a deliciously addicting, present day fairy tale cultural phenomenon. Humans are constantly dealing with and underlying dichotomy: a hunger for fast societal advancement and the comfort of our roots and traditions. The new fairy tales are the product of this parallel, and provide the right amount realism and fantasy so that we can directly relate them to our own lives. I mean, come on, doesn't everyone want to live happily ever after?

Sports

Knights baseball fights to the finish

Knights win regionals, brawl in districts - last game of the season turns ugly

By TRAVIS BARRETT

Sports Editor

The Knights baseball team tore through the regional playoffs to claim their sixth straight regional crown. While playing in the district round the Knights had a heated incident occur.

During the third and final game the Knights were up 8-3 when a Suffolk pitcher threw in the area of infielder Benjamin Keeping's head. This occurred right after a Knights home run. Words were exchanged and the two stormed at each other. Keeping is known to have a strong personality who doesn't take anything from anyone.

The next thing that occurred was that the Suffolk bench cleared, then the Knights bench cleared to "get our guy" Xaiver Nunez mentioned.

Due to NCAAJ rules, after both benches cleared both teams were eliminated from qualifying to the World Series. The Knights were three outs away from going to their fourth straight.

Nunez mentioned to me that it

was really draining to have one of his best series and "have it not count" because they got disqualified.

Head Coach Jeff Mejia declined to comment on the season prior and said he "would be more than happy to discuss the year coming forward."

After storming through the regionals defeating Holyoke, Massachusetts, and Quinsigamond Community College with a combined score of 33-6, they made their dominance known. After, they advanced to the districts to play Suffolk Community College in a best of three matchup.

The Knights dropped the first game in an 11 inning 4-3 ball game. After finishing the first inning tied 3-3 the rest of the game was quite dull with little offensive output. Although, both teams were able to get people on base, none made it home until the 11th inning where Suffolk scored off an infield single.

Cory Imbriano pitched in the second matchup and finished the game with only giving up one run

in the last inning and only gave up eight runs. The game was tied at 0-0 when Suffolk brought in one run in the top of the ninth. In the bottom of the ninth the Knights had two men on base when Nunez was up to bat. He was able to bring his guys home with a convincing three run home run to push the series to three games.

Unfortunately for the Knights cooler heads did not prevail and they were not able to continue.

Damien Gibson, outfielder, mentioned "we didn't want to out that way, but it is what it is." The team seems geared at making another "run at it," Gibson added. They are back and ready to go for another successful season.

The school issued a statement on the fight:

"We were very disappointed to learn that the Northern Essex Community College Knights will not be able to participate in the National Junior College Athletic Association's World Series this year.

Our baseball team, under the leadership of Coach Jeff Mejia, has been a source of great pride for the college.

The Knights have qualified

for the World Series every season since 2012, and they placed third in the nation in 2012 and second in the nation last season.

The Knights 2016/17 season was a good one. They finished with a 25-12-1 record, winning the Region XXI Championship, 3-0, and advancing to the District Finals at Suffolk County Community College in New York.

The District Finals, held last weekend, began with great baseball. Suffolk Community College won game 1 of the three-game series 4-3 in 11 innings, and Northern Essex won the second game, 3-2, after scoring three runs in the bottom of the ninth.

During the deciding game on Sunday, May 21, the Knights were leading 8-3 in the top of the ninth, with high hopes of winning the game, and advancing once again to the World Series.

A Northern Essex player was at bat with a 1-1 count when the Suffolk pitcher threw a pitch which went over the batter's head. The Northern Essex player approached the mound, and a scuffle ensued which involved multiple players from both teams.

While the altercation only lasted a minute, the umpires had

no choice but to call the game due to each team having no eligible players remaining. NJCAA rules require mandatory ejections for all players and bench personnel who leave the bench area when a fight may break out or has broken out. In addition to the ejection, per NJCAA bylaws, they are also required to serve a two-game suspension. This rendered each team unable to participate in the World Series.

While this decision is a painful one, Northern Essex stands by the ruling. The NJCAA rules regarding sportsmanship are clear, and the consequences are binding.

At this point, we want to celebrate the outstanding players and their coaches, Head Coach Mejia and Assistant Coach Lamothe. This ending is unfortunate but we don't want it to overshadow the very successful season that the team had until now.

We wish players who are transferring to four-year colleges and universities, the best of luck with their baseball and their studies. For the players who will be back again next year, we have high hopes for a great season and a trip to the 2018 World Series."

NECC athletes awarded

Two of NECC's own athletes get high praise for achievements

By NECC NEWSROOM STAFF
Correspondent

Northern Essex Community College's volleyball and baseball seasons have ended, but at least two team members have received accolades.

Two students have been named National Junior College Athletic Association's (NJCAA) Academic All American this year.

Kaitlyn Gould of Bradford, New Hampshire, was named third team for volleyball. She just completed her freshman year as a general studies: individualized option major.

Nolan Stevens, also com-

pleted his freshman year and was named to the second team for baseball. He is a biology major and lives in Haverhill. He is from Wilton, NH.

NECC offers three men's varsity sports, baseball, basketball and track and field as well as three women's varsity sports including softball, volleyball, and track and field.

For information on NECC sports visit the website.

For additional information contact Sue MacAvoy, NECC's director of athletics at smacavoy@necc.mass.edu



Photo Courtesy Athletic Administration

NECC Knights celebrate their 6th regional championship with their Trophy

Former student signs with MLB



Photo Courtesy

Ryan McAuliffe, former NECC student, signs minor league contract with NY Mets.



Photo Courtesy

Kaitlyn Gould



Photo Courtesy

Nolan Stevens

Sports

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Volleyball wins first game in four years

Volleyball is revamped here at NECC

By TRAVIS BARRETT
Sports Editor

The Volleyball season is underway and is already outperforming last year's group. They beat Great Bay Community College 3-1 out of four sets, for their first win in over four years.

Granted last year's team was young and inexperienced, so coming up with a win posed a more difficult challenge for them.

This year's team have already stopped the question of whether or not they could win a game or

not.

From the efforts they put on last Thursday night against Great Bay Community College the evidence is all there.

Amanda Forgetta led the team with 12 kills, 32 attempts and two aces, totalling 15 points for the Knights playing the outside hitters position. Rachel Amiss also tallied 12 total points with eight kills and three aces at the middle hitters position.

If Forgetta and Amiss continue this type of play with the rest of the team contributing the way they did last night they can have a chance at a successful season.

Second year head coach Monica Reum highlighted the "impressive defensive game" from Forgetta, as well as Rachel Amiss from Salem high school with eight kills and eight digs.

Brittany Birolini, second year outside hitter and captain, was very animated in her excitement when it came to the first win of her volleyball career.

Birolini is the only returning player with nine new athletes this season. They will still take anyone who is interested.

"It felt great to win!", Birolini said giving me a high five the process. She followed up informing me that this team has more

"seasoned players" that they can "do more with." Birolini mentioned that last years team didn't "clique" the way they hoped it would and that this year's team has a "different chemistry," she added.

She hopes that the team can go as far as they can this season.

Reum is ready for this season and the new challenges it presents.

"Having a team is more than just a sport on the court. It's having each other's back," Reum said.

She plans to really start implementing running plays into the offensive formula and mentioned

how last year with first time players they had to "build the fundamental skills: basic pass, set, hit." Reum also added that, "there is so much potential with this team" and that "the team is fired up."

With the first game so close to the start of the school schedule the team increased intensity at practice to get ready.

The Knights will take their talents on the road against Bunker Hill Community College Thursday, September 14 at six p.m..

If you would like to join the volleyball team you can contact Head Coach Reum at mreum@necc.mass.edu.

Cross Country is back!

Sue Dunn is excited to get going this season

By TRAVIS BARRETT
Sports Editor

Cross country is a go here at NECC this semester. After a two year hiatus Cross country is back and looking to make a name for themselves this year.

Sue Dunn will be coaching the six man team with three boys and three girls on the roster. Unfortunately for the team itself it doesn't reach the minimum amount of athletes to be considered a team.

So if you're looking to join Dunn says you have about two weeks to join. Until they reach the minimum of 10 athletes on the roster they can't receive team points. Although they are eligible for individual achievements, so there is still something to chase after.

Dunn is also the assistant head coach of the track team which just had its first season after a few years on hiatus. She is well versed and experienced in a plethora of running events and is really excited to coach on her own. Going from track to cross country the coaching procedures should be transferable.

Dunn mentioned she's, "going in with an open mind" and is taking things day to day. She's excited and energetic about the season and what it brings. She further mentioned how exciting it was to see so many younger students joining the team. This really helps the program build for later years.

She's been working on conditioning with the team for the past two and a half weeks to get them ready for their first event at UMass Dartmouth.

Ruben Santa-Waldron is a sophomore on the team is the most experienced when it comes to collegiate running. He has

done track and cross country for his whole high school career and has been running for NECC since he arrived here.

There's not too much of a difference with track and cross country for him, he's just happy to go out and run. His main goal is to break the 5K running record of 16 minutes and 40 seconds, Waldron mentioned. He also added he was pleasantly surprised with the turnout for the program as well.

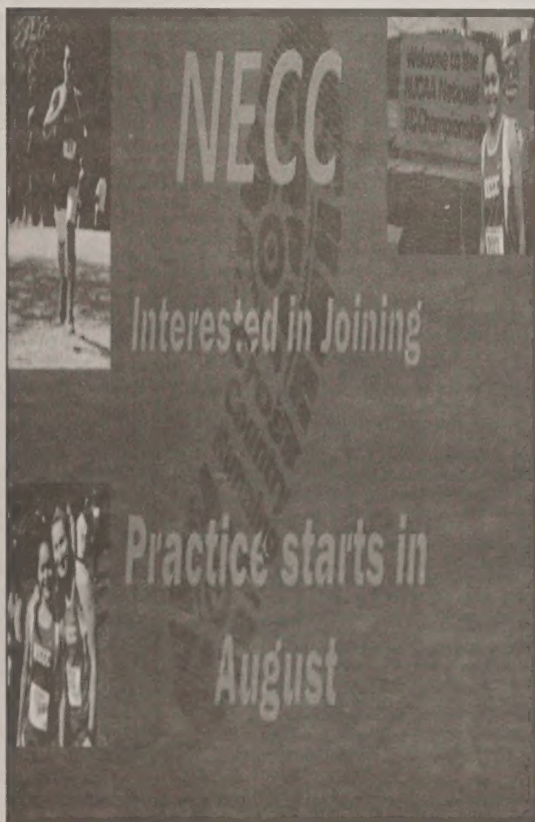
Katie Gould is also another member of the team. Gould was formerly on the volleyball team last semester and unfortunately tore her ACL. This put a scar on

not only her knee, but her volleyball career. She believed cross country would be the better fit for her and her knee.

Gould also was on of the recipients who received the award for student athlete of the year.

I asked what she's most looking forward to about cross country and she returned with, "just getting back to the gym and working out with a team." It seemed the team atmosphere is something she missed.

The cross country team will compete at UMass Dartmouth on Saturday, September 16 at 10:45 a.m..



Sports

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Athletics story continued from page one

Merrimack College even offered to let their new turf field be used by the NECC baseball team when NECC's field is rained out for home games.

Merrimack will also be having their athletes practice here in the fall and will play against the Knights during fall ball.

McCarthy mentioned adding new programs like soccer and even adding a golf tournament.

They have had different country clubs reach out like Atkinson country club inviting the school to use their course.

Blair, the new director, is excited for the changes that he hopes to make here at NECC.

Right now his first plan is meeting everyone, he said.

At the moment he has only met with about half the coaches. The goal is to have everyone

get comfortable with each other for a successful outcome for the school, he said.

He's coming from Franklin Pierce, which is a Division II school with 26 different sports. He came over as the assistant athletic coordinator and felt he had accomplished all he could there, he said. He said he was ready for a new challenge. He grew up in Newburyport and said he is ex-

cited to work in the area he grew up in.

When asked where the money would come from to support new programs he said he would throw fundraiser tournaments to generate money for something new. A lot of the skills he gained at Franklin Pierce will be very "transferable here," Blair said. Although there's a big difference with the amount of sports

between each school Blair said, "is on a smaller scale," so the responsibilities will be similar.

Blair also mentioned that there's a lot of "untapped potential," here at NECC where the school can build on improving the workout gym, enhance other facilities and build on programs as well as adding new ones.

NECC welcomes new athletic trainers

The weight room welcomes three new fitness instructors

By TRAVIS BARRETT
Sports Editor

The NECC gym has three new trainers for three different classes.

Shane Fulford, sophomore, will be teaching boxing classes, Zach Deveau, sophomore will be teaching the high intensity workout and Amy Jacobs is teaching the bootcamp classes.

Fulford has been boxing for

“It speaks to everybody and everyone can do it.”
- Shane Fulford

quite sometime now, as recent as last year he was volunteering his time for friends to take part in boxing. His popularity grew through each lesson. After Joe Torres stopped training boxing, Rob Parker, Head of Movement Science, asked Fulford to take the spot and he happily accepted.

Fulford previously would

charge people small fees and they could pay whatever they could afford because he understood the college life. After Parker informed him he would be paid for being a trainer, he signed right up.

"I like training people who haven't boxed before," Fulford said, but he also mentioned he

loves showing people that they're capable of so much more if they put the work in. He officially started on the sixth of September and has been enjoying it.

The biggest thing he likes about boxing is that "it speaks to everybody and everybody can do it."

Deveau is a movement science major and is looking to pursue more avenues in training. He teaches the high intensity program here, that is either in a group or individually, and they go from either working on a machine, with weights or bodyweight exercises in a face paced manner.

"I like helping people with

their fitness goals," Deveau said on why he loves training.

Amy Jacobs is teaching the bootcamp classes here and that consists of an intense workout for a shorter period while getting their blood flowing.

All fitness classes are free for NECC students and staff.

If you're looking to get more information on these classes visit the Health and Fitness center during the hours of 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursdays or Friday from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m.. For any questions call Parker at 978-556-3819.



New athletic trainers (from left to right) Zach Deveau and Shane Fulford

Photo by Travis Barrett

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Back to School

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Inspired by Thoreau

By ELLEN SMALL DAVIS
NECC Newsroom

What if naturalist and author Henry David Thoreau had been a photographer?

The answer to that question is the focus of an exhibit at Northern Essex Community College.

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of Thoreau's birth, Japanese-born, fine art photographer Koichiro Kurita, tries to answer that question with an exhibit titled "Beyond Spheres". The large format exhibit runs from Saturday, Sept. 16, through Saturday, Oct. 28, at NECC's Linda Hummel-Shea Artspace in the Harold Bentley Library on the Haverhill campus, 100 Elliott St. An opening reception and talk will be held Thursday, Sept. 28, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the ArtSpace.

The 30 pieces on exhibit are a homage of sorts to Kurita's two most influential mentors – Thoreau and photography pioneer Henry Fox Talbot. Kurita has created handmade photography with the same depth of thought and reflection on man's coexistence with nature as Thoreau.

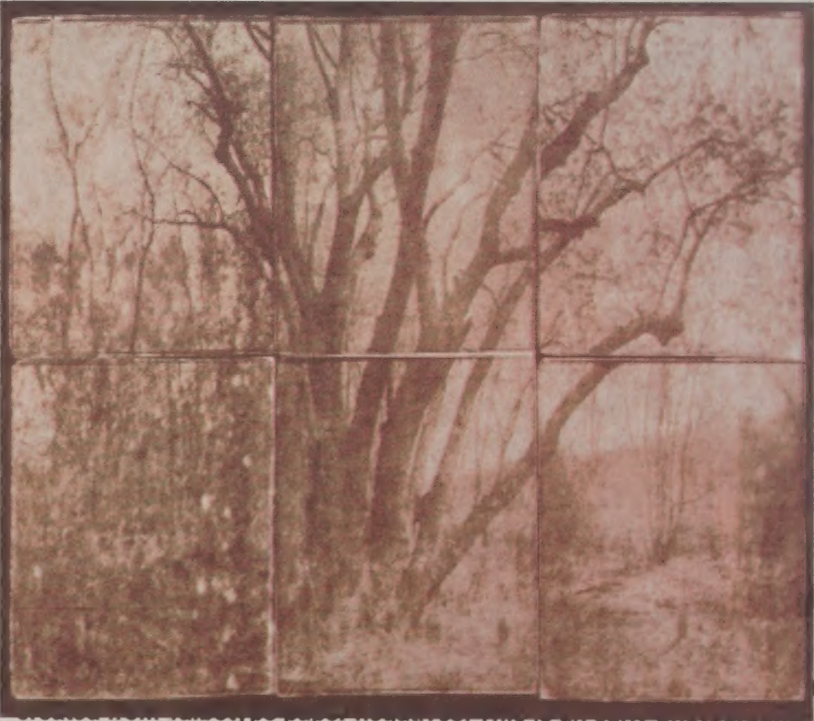
Kurita launched the Beyond Spheres project in 2010. He sees it as a logical extension of his continuing search for an answer to the question "What if Thoreau

had been a photographer? The aim of this project was, and is, to give pictorial form to Thoreau's ideas and writings by employing the methods used by his contemporaries

From October 2015 through 2016 Kurita explored remote and hidden sites along the Ipswich, Concord, Assabet, Sudbury and Merrimack Rivers, retracing portions of the 1839 journey chronicled in Thoreau's book "A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers." As many of the shooting locations were accessible only by canoe, this new series of photographs of terrain less traveled yielded images of exceptional beauty. Born in Ashiya City, Japan, Kurita studied perceptual psychology in college where he also learned to use a camera. Inspired by Thoreau after reading "Walden", he gave up his career as a commercial photographer to work on nature landscapes.

Over the last 30 years he has exhibited internationally and been collected by major museums including the Museum of Fine Arts/Boston, the Museum of fine Arts/Houston, Bibliotheque Nationale de France, and the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum to name a few.

The exhibit is sponsored by the NECC Art Department & the NECC Foundation.



Created from Talbotype paper negative, this is an early photographic process that involves using paper coated with silver iodide. Talbotype is also known as calotype which has Greek origins meaning "beautiful impression."